

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Madeleine Clayton 03/11/2002
Departmental Forms Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6086
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for approval of the reinstatement of an information collection received on 01/10/2002.

TITLE: Billfish Tagging Report

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): 88-162

ACTION : APPROVED

OMB NO.: 0648-0009

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2005

BURDEN	RESPONSES	BURDEN HOURS	BURDEN COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	760	62	0
Difference	760	62	0
Program Change		62	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated 5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0009**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The Billfish Tagging Program began in 1963 and is an integral part of the Billfish Research Program at the Southwest Fishery Science Center (SWFSC). The SWFSC provides tagging supplies to individuals electing to tag and release the billfish they catch. The 'Billfish Tagging Report' is issued with individual billfish tags and is imprinted with the number matching the accompanying tag. The 'Billfish Tagging Report' is the primary mechanism by which these cooperating anglers and commercial fishers return the tagging and release information concerning the billfish they have tagged. Interested individuals cooperating in the Program do so on a strictly voluntary basis.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

The Program is conducted throughout the year to determine billfish habitat, mortality rates, migration patterns, feeding habits and growth rates. Data from this Program is utilized by fishery biologists investigating the health of billfish resources throughout the Pacific. Results aid in ongoing research concerning billfish resources and are published annually in the Billfish Newsletter.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Data is collected from observations taken at sea on small fishing boats. The data summarizes the actual fishing event that just occurred. Automated and/or electronic reporting is not possible due to the variety in vessel capability. Anglers are requested to complete the 'Billfish Tagging Report' immediately and mail it to the SWFSC as soon as possible.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

This Program is unique to the billfish angling community in that it provides free tagging supplies throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans and publishes its results annually. Billfish conservation became very popular during the early 1980s and several foreign and private conservation organizations began tagging programs. This Program cooperates completely with these organizations so that research efforts are expanded and not duplicated.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The Program deals with individual anglers and commercial fishers cooperating in the Program and does not impact any business entity.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

Program results are used by fishery biologists at the SWFSC, and elsewhere, for the purpose of providing management advice. A break in the Program time line would jeopardize the usefulness of nearly 35 years of billfish tag and recapture data.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

Response to the “Billfish Tagging Report” is consistent with OMB guidelines and completely voluntary.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice (copy attached) solicited comments on this renewal. None were received. Angler comments concerning the Program are also requested annually in the Billfish Newsletter, and other fishery laboratories and non-governmental organizations are also encouraged to provide comments.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments are given to those returning the “Billfish Tagging Report”. Persons submitting reports are given a baseball cap and the catch and recapture information for the fish reported on.

10. Describe any assurance or confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Program data results are not confidential. Names and addresses of Program respondents are kept in electronic form (data base). Names (not addresses) of individuals tagging significant numbers of billfish are recognized in the Billfish Newsletter.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Burden to complete the “Billfish Tagging Report” card is about five minutes per response. Although our active mailing list of taggers varies between 2,000 to 3,000 volunteers, the average number of respondents who return the “Billfish Tagging Report” is 750. Total annual burden is then estimated at 62.5 hours ($750 \times 5/60 = 62.5$).

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection.

There is no cost burden to the respondents. Postage is paid by the SWFSC if mailed from within the U.S. For those mailing from foreign countries, the only cost is that of postage. While we don’t have a hard estimate on this, the total would be less than \$50.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Annual cost to print the Billfish Tagging Report and postage is under \$500. This figure is based on actual expenses averaged over the last few years. Less clear is the in-house cost of staff (1 GS-9 and 1 GS-12) to maintain the entire Program, but we spend about 30% of our time on the Program. Included are staff time to analyze data, report results in-house, prepare various manuscripts, prepare the Billfish Newsletter and respond to the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements. The current year operating plan for the Billfish Program in 1998 appropriates \$ 6.6K exclusive of wages. This includes \$270 for printing of the “Billfish Tagging Report” and \$2K for the purchase of billfish tags distributed to anglers.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

This is a program change for the reinstatement of a collection whose approval expired.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The Program is conducted on a calendar year with the Billfish Newsletter published in May of each year. The Billfish Newsletter is the method by which the SWFSC provides feedback to the fishing community and is written for cooperating anglers participating in the Program. Results of the International Angler Survey (Paperwork Reduction Act requirements reported elsewhere) are also reported in the Billfish Newsletter. Content of the Billfish Newsletter varies annually but always includes angling effort by area and species captured, reported catches, results from

the Billfish Tagging Program as well as general interest articles directed to the billfish angler. A copy of the most recent Billfish Newsletter is attached.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The expiration date is displayed.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

No exceptions are requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The potential respondent universe could include every angler who fished for, tagged and released a billfish in the Pacific and/or Indian oceans during the previous year. To be a participating tagger in the Billfish Tagging Program, the angler must contact the SWFSC and request tagging supplies and to be placed on our mailing list. In 2000, 2,500 tags and their associated 'Billfish Tagging Report' cards were issued. A total of 1,200 went to individual anglers and the remainder were sent to various sportfishing clubs for use by their membership. In 2000, 436 'Billfish Tagging Report' cards were returned indicating 636 billfish had been tagged and released.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

All billfish taggers receive and are encouraged to complete the 'Billfish Tagging Report' as soon as they release a tagged billfish and to mail it to the SWFSC as soon as possible. Each 'Billfish Tagging Report' received is entered into DBASE format and then used to describe various life history parameters if and when that particular fish is recaptured.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be

provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Individual taggers are encouraged to tag and release their billfish rather than kill them. Once tagged, it is the taggers responsibility to complete the Billfish Tagging Report and mail it to the SWFSC. Our volunteer taggers fully understand the importance of returning this information because otherwise tagging is of no value. Response is therefore excellent but not 100 percent.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

Tests have not been conducted because of limited funding and staff.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

The Project Leader is David Holts, Fishery Biologist (858-546-7186).
The Division Chief is Dr. John Hunter (858-546-7175).

The sponsor proposes to provide the following PRA information in the Billfish Newsletter that accompanies the survey forms, since the form is small and cannot handle all of the information required. The other OMB number and expiration date appears on the survey form itself.

“The NMFS needs this information for the conservation and management of fishery resources. The information will be used for billfish research. Public reporting burden for the survey is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to David Holts at the address on the form. The information submitted will be a public record. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.”

NOAA. National Marine Fisheries Service

BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT

PLEASE FILL IN DETAILS AND MAIL TODAY

If mailing outside USA, postage must be affixed

Please return card. Otherwise tagging is of no value

TAG #

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Locality: _____

Species: _____ Date: _____

Estimate length (tip of jaw to fork of tail): _____ inches. Weight: _____ lbs.

Fish Condition: _____ Bait type: _____

Angler: _____ Fight time (minutes) _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

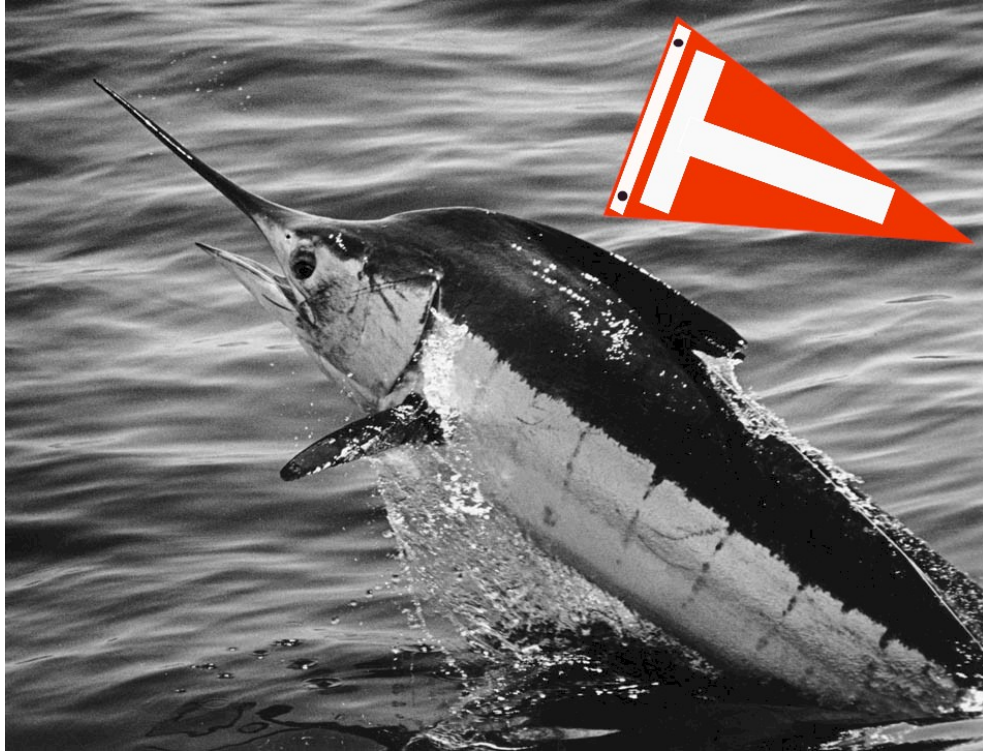
Club: _____

Captain: _____ Boat name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Response to this form is voluntary.
OMB 0648-0009, expiration date 08/31/2001
NOAA 88-162, 01/2001

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center's 2001 BILLFISH NEWSLETTER



[Draft Fishery Management Plan for Highly Migratory Species](#)



[Data from Southern California Sportfishing Clubs Analyzed](#)



[Trends in 2000 Billfish Angler Catch Rates](#)



[2000 Billfish Tagging and Recoveries](#)



[Pacific Federal Angler Affiliation for Billfish](#)



Complete Contents of this Issue:

[Introduction](#)

[Pacific Federal Angler Affiliation for Billfish \(PacFAAB\)](#)

[The International Billfish Survey](#)

[The Billfish Tagging Program](#)

[Tag Recoveries in 2000](#)

[Survey of Southern California Billfishing Clubs](#)

[Results of AFTCO's 2000 Pacific Tag/Flag Tournament](#)

[Return of Completed Cards & Survey Response](#)

[Send Us Your Potographs, Cover Photo & Acknowledgements](#)

[Contact Information](#)

INTRODUCTION

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center's (SWFSC) billfish research programs provide information for the conservation and management of billfish resources in the Pacific. This *Billfish Newsletter* is an annual publication that describes the primary components of the SWFSC's billfish research. The International Billfish Angling Survey provides angler catch and fishing effort information. The Billfish Tagging Program provides data on the biology, distribution and migration patterns of Pacific billfish. The Federal-Angler Affiliation for Billfish (PacFAAB) is a cooperative program that focused scientific study on the billfish resource while making research results available to anglers on a timely basis. All investigations rely on continued cooperation from billfish anglers, sport fishing clubs, commercial fishers and agencies affiliated with the SWFSC.

This year, SWFSC biologists and staff spent considerable effort preparing information for the draft Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS) within the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). For the most part, West Coast fisheries have open access to highly migratory species such as tuna, swordfish and pelagic sharks. Management measures are needed to ensure that domestic and international management of these species is consistent, precautionary and based on the most accurate information available. The draft FMP document provides up-to-date information and data concerning 13 pelagic species including swordfish, striped marlin, yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack, albacore, thresher shark (3 species), mako shark, blue shark and dorado. Goals are to implement long-term conservation and sustainable use, prevent over fishing, provide diverse recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and to minimize both bycatch and user conflicts.

The final draft FMP will contain extensive regulatory options for existing and potential future fisheries that will be considered by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. After extensive public comment during the summer of 2001, the Council may decide on any number of those regulatory options to manage West Coast fisheries targeting these species. Once the FMP is enacted, any regulatory actions taken by the Council to manage highly migratory species could impact recreational billfish anglers as well as commercial fishers along the West Coast.

Public input has been encouraged throughout the FMP development process, including development team meetings and constituent scoping meetings. Additionally an Advisory Panel was established early in the process to facilitate adequate representation by all stakeholders. The draft FMP is currently scheduled to be presented to the Council during its June 2001 meeting. The draft FMP is available online at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. Should you want more information you can call or write the Pacific Fishery Management Council at 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland OR 97201 (Phone 503/326-6352).

PACIFIC FEDERAL ANGLER AFFILIATION FOR BILLFISH PacFAAB)

PacFAAB facilitates information exchange between scientists and recreational billfish anglers thereby improving stock assessment information for Pacific billfish. This research provides improved access to striped marlin and other pelagic species allowing for the collection of data on movements, growth, reproduction, and tagging mortality. Collaborative projects provide the means to acquire specific life history data, time series abundance estimates, movement patterns and stock boundaries, and measures of the physical condition of fish at time of release.

Implementation of activities noted below has shown great promise in 2000 while the more costly elements await additional resources:

- ▶ Web site was constructed as means of efficient information exchange is available at <http://swfsc.ucsd.edu/frd.PacFAABa.html>,
- ▶ Volunteer bridge log for time-series indexing of catch-per-unit of effort was developed,
- ▶ Better documentation of length of catch records achieved,
- ▶ Historic club records were obtained for time-series indexes of abundance (see below),
- ▶ Upgraded tournament data record keeping implemented to include measures of total fishing effort, and
- ▶ Tissue sampling was implemented for genetic and physiological studies.

We, at the SWFSC, want this new level of cooperation to continue to grow and encourage your individual and collective support and participation. We welcome your comments and ideas. Please feel free to call or email the SWFSC any time.

THE INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH SURVEY

The *International Billfish Angler Survey* began in 1969 and now provides a 32-year time series of angler catch rates in key locations throughout the Pacific. The post card survey provides catch and fishing effort data from individual anglers for billfish and swordfish in the Pacific Ocean. It provides the only estimates of recreational fishing effort for marlin and swordfish in many key Pacific locations. Catch per angler day, the measure of angler success, is a measure of local changes in catch rate and may indicate changes in stock size, environmental conditions or local depletion by a fishery. Such information is an important component of stock assessment models.

In 2000, 458 billfish anglers reported catching 4,432 billfish during 7,241 fishing days. [Table 1](#) indicates fishing effort, in angler days, and CPUE for all billfish reported by location for the year 2000. The annual mean catch-per-effort (measured in catch per day fishing) for all billfish was 0.61 billfish per day in 2000 and 0.48 in 1999. This was an improvement over 1999 as anglers in 2000 fished a fewer number of days and caught more fish. The current mean catch rate of 0.61 is also greater than the prior five-year average of 0.50 (1995 to 1999) and higher than the all-time mean highs that occurred during the first years of this survey (1969 to 1971). The lowest catch rates averaged 0.34 during the mid-1970s.

Reported catch rates of blue marlin off Hawaii totaled 480 blue marlin in 3,399 days of fishing or 0.14 blue marlin-per-day. The catch rate remains fairly constant within a 20-year range ([Figure 1a](#)). Blue marlin are tropical and sub-tropical in habitat and rarely extend north of Magdalena Bay, Baja California Sur. The catch off Baja totaled 70 blue marlin in 1,275 days fishing (0.05 per day), which is consistent with prior years. Catch rates of blue marlin off Costa Rica (0.20), Mauritius (0.43), and Tahiti (0.23) also remain consistent with recent results ([Figure 1a](#)).

Trends in mean angler catch rates for striped marlin are shown graphically in ([Figure 1b](#)). Mean angler catch rate in Southern California (0.07) and Hawaii (0.06) declined slightly in 2000 but has remained fairly consistent since the mid-1980s. At the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, but north Mazatlan, 921 striped marlin were reported caught in 1,275 days of fishing. This catch rate of 0.71 striped marlin per angler day was slightly more than for all of Mexico (0.63). Baja California is a core area for billfish abundance and has always been a productive area for striped marlin. There appears no long-term trend for the period although several periods of highs and lows are evident. For example, during or immediately following strong El Niño episodes (1982-83, 1987, 1991-92, and 1997) were periods of lower catches off Mexico. Previous work has shown commercial longline fisheries operating off the coast of Baja California, Sur negatively impacted angler catch rates. The operation of joint-venture longline fisheries near Baja California in the 1970s coincided with declining angler catch rates for striped marlin. Mexico prohibited longline fishing in its EEZ for two years beginning in 1976. During that period the angler catch rate for billfish in that area increased by almost 60%. A period of limited longlining that began in 1982 was again correlated with a decline in angler catch rates. Mexican longline permits issued in late 1999 and 2000 have been revoked although some vessels continue to longline off Baja while appealing that action in Mexican courts.

Reported catch rates of black marlin in Australia (0.23) and Panama (0.22) increased in 2000 but are below recent highs ([Figure 1c](#)). Catch rates of sailfish throughout Mexico (0.30) did not reflect the greater success off the central coast from Mazatlan to Zihuatanejo (1.45). Catch rates here were generally better than in recent years ([Figure 1d](#)). Guatemala beat all records with 1,257 sailfish reported in just 123 days of fishing (10.22) and Costa Rica rebounded from a three-year decline in angler success to just over two sailfish per day (2.04). Anglers in the Indian Ocean reported 0.72 sailfish per angler day with excellent fishing in Kenya (0.86) and the Maldiv Islands (0.85). Short-billed spearfish continued a strong run off Hawaii where anglers reported catching 302 in the 3,399 fishing days for a catch rate of 0.09.

THE BILLFISH TAGGING PROGRAM

The *Billfish Tagging Program* began in 1963. Release and recapture data from tagged billfish are used to determine movement patterns, geographic distribution and growth patterns of billfish. Since its inception more than 47,610 fish of 76 different species have been tagged and released ([Table 2](#)). The Billfish Tagging Report cards received for 2000 indicate a total of 636 billfish were tagged and released by 436 anglers and 173 fishing captains ([Table 3](#)). This is 6% fewer tag releases than in 1999 and 34% fewer than 1998. Only 38 striped marlin were tagged off southern California. In Hawaii, 121 blue marlin and 65 striped marlin were reported tagged and released. This was another good year for tagging short-billed spearfish in Hawaii where 85 were tagged. Tagging off Mexico remained similar to past years with 182 billfish tagged from Magdalena Bay south to La Paz and 91 more tagged between Mazatlan, Zihuatanejo and Acapulco. Eight swordfish were tagged off Mexico in the year 2000.

Each year we recognize the anglers, captains and fishers who tag and release billfish. In 2000, 436 individual anglers reported tagging at least one billfish. Individual recognition of each angler who reported tagging two or more billfish in 2000 is presented in [Table 4](#). Limited space prevents listing all 436 taggers. We want to acknowledge John Hoolihan who tagged the most billfish during the last five-year period and Don Anderson who was the most consistent tagger in each of the past five years. We also list the captains of charter and private boats who tagged significant numbers of billfish in specific regions ([Table 5](#)). Captain Mark Shultz tagged the most billfish during the last five-year period while Captain John Jordan was the most consistent tagger in each of the last five years. Continued interest and cooperation by these captains have greatly enhanced the *Billfish Tagging Program*, and their efforts are truly appreciated.

TAG RECOVERIES IN 2000

Seven (7) billfish were reported recaptured in 2000 including three blue marlin and four sailfish ([Table 6](#)). Two of the recaptured blue marlin were tagged off Kailua-Kona and one off Lanai, Hawaii. Two of the blue marlin were recaptured by longline fishers and one by trolling. One of these was at liberty for 1,288 days (3.5 years) during which time it traveled across the International Date Line, where it was recaptured near the Marshall Islands a distance of 1,769 nmi ([Table 6](#)). Two of the four sailfish were tagged and recaptured near Zihuatanejo, Mexico. Two additional recoveries of the 96 sailfish tagged in the Persian Gulf near Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in 1998 were recaptured in 2000. One sailfish was free for 1,148 days and traveled northwest 305 nmi. Iranian fishermen have now reported recapturing fourteen of the 96 tagged sailfish from the Persian Gulf.

We began supplying tag supplies for bluefin tuna in 1998. Two tagged bluefin tuna were recaptured in 2000. Both moved from Isla Cedros, Baja California Sur, north to just south of Ensenada, Mexico in 386 and 389 days, presumably after making the trip to the western Pacific and back. Additional non-billfish tag recaptures included three common thresher and two shortfin mako sharks, tagged during the SWFSC's annual shark abundance survey.

SURVEY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BILLFISHING CLUBS

The fishing records from three Southern California sport fishing clubs (Balboa Angling Club, San Diego Marlin Club and the Tuna Club of Avalon) were collected in 2000 and provide time series data on catch and size of catch. The Tuna Club began documenting catch in 1898 and recorded the first striped marlin catch in 1903 and the first swordfish in 1909. The Balboa Angling Club was organized in 1926 and has records since 1940. The San Diego Marlin Club was founded in 1931 and has documented striped marlin catches since 1952. The combined records from the three clubs provide seasonal data on catch and size of catch for southern California striped marlin, swordfish and tuna taken by their membership over nearly 100 years of record keeping. Information and data collected by the clubs did not include measures of fishing effort such as number of anglers or number of days fished.

Members of the three clubs recorded 577 swordfish taken off Southern California between 1909 and 1996. Club data ranged from zero catch in several years to a peak of 127 swordfish reported in 1978. Periods of greatest swordfish catch occurred between 1915 to 1930 and from 1969 to 1981. The increased catches during the 1970s correspond to a similar increase in landings from California's commercial harpoon fishery and may reflect a generally higher abundance in southern California waters. Greater swordfish abundance

coincided with warm periods associated with El Niño episodes.

The mean whole weight of 522 of the recreationally caught swordfish recorded between 1909 and 1996 was 116 kg or 255 lbs. ([Figure 2](#)). The documented weight of the swordfish taken by club members declined from 120 kg (265 lbs.) during 1909 to 1916 to 105 kg (231 lbs.) from 1986 to 1996 ($P = 0.01$, $R^2 = 0.052$).

Reported striped marlin catches from all three clubs (including landed, tagged and released) total 28,929 and ranged from 273 fish per year in the 1990s to 761 fish per year during the 1980s ([Figure 3](#)). The period between 1955 and 1965 had some of the highest catches in a single season although the 1980s had more consistent catches. The mean whole body weight of 21,501 striped marlin weighed at the sportfishing clubs averaged 68 kg (150 lbs.) and individual weights ranged from 22 kg to over 180 kg (48 to over 400 lbs.) from 1903 to 2000 ([Figure 4](#)). Larger striped marlin were taken off southern California through the 1940s than in subsequent years. The average weight of striped marlin from 1910 to 1915 declined from 83 kg (182 lbs.) to 57 kg (126 lbs.) during 1995 to 2000. There are no records of striped marlin in excess of 160-kg (350 lbs.) landed off southern California since the 1950s. Although early weight records possibly include a few blue marlin and/or swordfish incorrectly identified as striped marlin, those few numbers will not change the fact that the size of striped marlin declined significantly ($P = 0.01$, $R^2 = 0.037$) over the period. The International Game Fish Association's all tackle record for striped marlin is 224 kg (494 lbs.) taken off New Zealand. Club records also document a substantial increase in tag and release fishing. The number of striped marlin released, and/or tagged, increased from between 20% to 50% in the 1980s to nearly 90% in recent years ([Figure 5](#)).

RESULTS OF AFTCO's 2000 PACIFIC TAG/FLAG TOURNAMENT

The third annual [AFTCO](#) Pacific Tag/Flag Tournament conducted from November 1 through October 31 includes all captains and anglers who tag and release fish in any of five categories. The SWFSC provides tagging supplies to participating anglers tagging billfish and bluefin tuna. AFTCO Tournament officials combine tagging results from the SWFSC with those of the CDFG and The Billfish Foundation to identify anglers and captains who tag and release the most fish in each of five categories.

Tournament winners for 2000 were recognized January 20, 2001 at the Billfish Foundation dinner at the Balboa Bay Club, Balboa CA. *Pacific Captain the Year* trophy went to Julio Cota, while *Pacific Angler of the Year* went to Michael Murray. Tournament tag winners in 2000 are shown below by category. Numbers in parentheses indicate numbers of fish tagged and released.

2000 AFTCO Tournament winners are shown below by category.
Numbers in parentheses indicate numbers of fish tagged and released.



CATEGORY	CAPTAIN	ANGLER
1. Blue/Black Marlin	Jose Ibarquen (24)	Mike Foster (3)
2. Striped Marlin	Mike Adkins (133)	Michael Murray (5)
3. Sailfish	Ron Hamlin (1,137)	Enrico Capozzi (10)
4. Thresher/Mako Shark	Deana Poe (9)	Keith Poe (23)
5. Bluefin Tuna	none	none

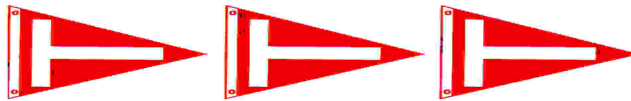
RETURN OF COMPLETED CARDS

PLEASE NOTE: Billfish recaptures for which the tag release information has not been received now number 64 or 12 percent. This also means nearly 5,100 additional billfish have been tagged without the release information being returned to the SWFSC. Every tag recapture is very important to this research effort. If you are going to take the time and make the effort to tag your catch, make it count. Tag and release your fish skillfully and return the yellow **BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT**. Though easily forgotten in the heat of battle and glow of success, returning the card is the most critical and final step in tagging your fish. This would be a good time to check your records, tackle boxes, salon cabinets, etc., for any of the Billfish Tagging Report cards from tagged fish not yet mailed to the SWFSC.

SURVEY RESPONSE

Trends in abundance indices are a key element in stock assessment models. This *Billfish Angler Survey* now provides a 32-year index of abundance in several high profile locations throughout the Pacific and has become most useful in the assessment process. Your continued response to the *Billfish Angler Survey* is still needed to better the index of the health of the billfish stocks important to recreational fisheries.

BILLFISH ANGLER SURVEY cards for fishing in the **2001 calendar year** will be mailed out in December of this year. Please complete the survey and return the post-paid survey form by February 2002. Additional 2001 *Survey* cards will be available to all billfish anglers from this office. U.S. Government regulations require we purge our mailing list each year. If you wish to continue to receive the *Billfish Newsletter* but did not fish, please indicate "NO FISHING" on the *Billfish Angler Survey* form and return it to the Center. Your name will be retained.



PAPER REDUCTION ACT NOTIFICATION

The federal Paper Reduction Act requires we provide reporting burden to all Survey respondents and billfish taggers. The reporting burden to complete the Billfish Angler Survey card and the Billfish Tagging Report is estimated to average five minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to the SWFSC, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, CA 92038. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

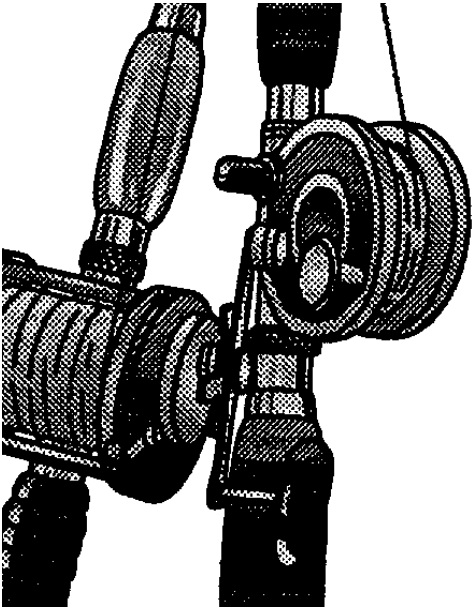
The Southwest Fisheries Science Center is looking for good photographs of billfish for the cover of next year's *Billfish Newsletter*. Color or black-and-white photos of billfish and/or fishing activities are appropriate. We would appreciate your sharing of photos and will give you full credit in the 2002 issue. A billfish baseball cap and plaque will be awarded to the winning photographer.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This years cover is of a striped marlin caught and released by Howard Ashby during a 1972 billfish tournament at the Hotel Cabo San Lucas. Photo by Bill Beebe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information reported here would not be possible without the cooperation of thousands of anglers and volunteers who support these investigations. Your efforts and assistance are greatly appreciated. We welcome reader comments and suggestions concerning the content of the *Billfish Newsletter*. Roy Allen and Henry Orr designed the newsletter. The *Billfish Newsletter* can also be accessed on the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's home page under 'Publications' at <http://swfsc.nmfs.noaa.gov>. We also thank Randall Rasmussen for placing the Billfish Newsletter on the SWFSC's web page and to Chuck Oliver for constructing and managing the PacFAAB web page.



Smooth Seas and Good Fishing

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[CITE: 16USC760e]

TITLE 16--CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 9A--PRESERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES

Sec. 760e. Study of migratory game fish; waters; research; purpose

The Secretary of Commerce is directed to undertake a comprehensive continuing study of the migratory marine fish of interest to recreational fishermen of the United States, including species inhabiting the offshore waters of the United States and species which migrate through or spend a part of their lives in the inshore waters of the United States. The study shall include, but not be limited to, research on migrations, identity of stocks, growth rates, mortality rates, variations in survival, environmental influences, both natural and artificial, including pollution, and effects of fishing on the species, for the purpose of developing wise conservation policies and constructive management activities.

(Pub. L. 86-359, Sec. 1, Sept. 22, 1959, 73 Stat. 642; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, Sec. 1(b), eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090.)

Transfer of Functions

Transfer of functions to Secretary of Commerce from Secretary of the Interior by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, see note set out under section 755 of this title.

Section Referred to in Other Sections

This section is referred to in sections 760f, 760g of this title.

Titanium Sponge will allow the Administrator to sell additional quantities of the material to meet increased industry demand. The Committee is seeking public comments on the potential market impact of these proposed increases.

The quantities of Mica Splittings and Titanium Sponge listed in the proposed FY 2002 AMP are not sales target disposal quantities. They are only a statement of the proposed maximum quantities of these materials that may be disposed of in a particular fiscal year. The quantities of these two materials that will actually be offered for sale will depend on the market for the materials at the time of their offering as well as on the quantities of the materials approved for disposal by Congress.

The Committee requests that interested parties provide written comments, supporting data and documentation, and any other relevant information on the potential market impact of the proposed increased disposal quantities of Mica Splittings and Titanium Sponge. Although comments in response to this Notice must be received by August 8, 2001 to ensure full consideration by the Committee, interested parties are encouraged to submit comments and supporting information at any time thereafter to keep the Committee informed as to the market impact of the sales of these materials. Public comment is an important element of the Committee's market impact review process.

Anyone submitting business confidential information should clearly identify the business confidential portion of the submission and also provide a non-confidential submission that can be placed in the public file. The Committee will seek to protect such information to the extent permitted by law.

The records related to this Notice will be made accessible in accordance with the regulations published in part 4 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations (15 C.F.R. 4.1 et seq.). Specifically, the Bureau of Export Administration's FOIA reading room is located on its web page, which can be found at <http://www.bxa.doc.gov>, and copies of the public comments received will be maintained at that location (see Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) heading). If requesters cannot access the web site, they may call (202) 482-2165 for assistance.

Dated: June 28, 2001.

Matthew S. Borman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Export Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-17101 Filed 7-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Export Trade Certificate of Review

ACTION: Notice of Issuance of an Amended Export Trade Certificate of Review, Application No. 85-9A018.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce has issued an amended Export Trade Certificate of Review to The U.S. Shipper's Association ("USSA") on July 2, 2001. Notice of issuance of the original Certificate was published in the **Federal Register** on June 9, 1986, (51 FR 20873).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vanessa M. Bachman, Acting Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, by E-mail at oetca@ita.doc.gov, or by phone at (202) 482-5131. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title III of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to issue Export Trade Certificates of Review. The regulations implementing Title III are found at 15 CFR part 325 (2000).

The Office of Export Trading Company Affairs ("OETCA") is issuing this notice pursuant to 15 CFR 325.6(b), which requires the Department of Commerce to publish a summary of a Certificate in the **Federal Register**. Under Section 305(a) of the Act and 15 CFR 325.11(a), any person aggrieved by the Secretary's determination may, within 30 days of the date of this notice, bring an action in any appropriate district court of the United States to set aside the determination on the ground that the determination is erroneous.

Description of Amended Certificate

Export Trade Certificate of Review No. 85-00018, was issued to USSA on June 3, 1986 (51 FR 20873, June 9, 1986), and was last amended on May 28, 1999 (64 FR 29994, June 4, 1999).

USSA's Export Trade Certificate of Review has been amended to:

- (1) Add the following as "Members" of the Certificate within the meaning of § 325.2(1) of the Regulations (15 CFR 325.2(1)): Basell USA Inc., Wilmington, DE (Controlling Entity: Basell NV., Hoofddorp, The

Netherlands); Resolution Performance Products LLC, Houston, TX; (Controlling Entity: Apollo Management LP, New York, NY); KRATON Polymers U.S. LLC (Controlling Entity: R.K. Polymers LLC, New York, NY); Aventis Crop Science, USA LP (Controlling Entity: Aventis Crop Science Holding SA, Lyon, France); George Avery, Westport, CT; J.W.C. & Company, LLC, Macungie, PA" and

- (2) Change the listing of current member Rhodia, Inc., Cranberry, New Jersey (Controlling Entity: Rhone-Poulenc, S.A., Courbevoie, France) to Rhodia, Inc., Cranberry, New Jersey (Controlling Entity: Rhodia, S.A., Boulange-Billancourt, France) and
- (3) Delete the following members: ANGUS Chemical Company, Buffalo Grove, IL (Controlling Entity: Alberta Natural Gas, Alberta, Canada); Nova Chemicals Inc., Monaca, PA; Rhone-Poulenc AG Company, Research Triangle Park, NC (Controlling Entity: Rhone-Poulenc, S.A., Courbevoie, France); and Rhone-Poulenc Animal Nutrition, Atlanta, GA (Controlling Entity: Rhone-Poulenc, S.A., Courbevoie, France).

The effective date of the amended certificate is April 3, 2001. A copy of the amended certificate will be kept in the International Trade Administration's Freedom of Information Records Inspection Facility, Room 4102, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: July 2, 2001.

Vanessa M. Bachman,

Acting Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs,

[FR Doc. 01-17054 Filed 7-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070301B]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Billfish Tagging Report

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information

collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to David Holts, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, CA 92038-0271 (phone 858-546-7186).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations's Southwest Fishery Science Center operates a billfish tagging program. Tagging supplies are provided to volunteers. When they catch and tag fish they submit a brief report on the fish tagged and the location of the tagging. The information obtained is used in conjunction with tag returns to determine billfish migration patterns, mortality rates, and similar information useful in the management of the fishery.

II. Method of Collection

A paper form the size of a postcard is used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0009.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-162.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,250.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 104.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c)

ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 2, 2001.

Madeleine Clayton,

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-17092 Filed 7-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070301C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Marine Sport Fishing Economic Survey

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Tod Lee, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, F/AKC3, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Bldg. 4, Seattle, WA 98115 (phone 206-526-4252).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The purpose of the survey is to collect information that will be used to conduct economic analyses of marine sport fisheries off Alaska. The Federal Government is responsible for the management of the Pacific halibut fishery, while the State of Alaska manages the salmon fisheries. The scope of the project includes both the Pacific halibut and the primary salmon fisheries (Chinook, Coho and Sockeye). The survey data will be used to estimate the economic value of a fishing day to anglers, and how catch rates and fishery regulations affects that value. The survey data will also be used to estimate how catch rates and fishery regulation affect the participation decisions of anglers. This type of economic data is currently not available for many areas and fisheries in Alaska. The information derived from the survey will be of use to fishery managers in their effort to evaluate the economic status of the marine sport fisheries off Alaska and the consequences of proposed regulations.

II. Method of Collection

The data will be collected through a mail survey with a telephone contact of non-respondents. Each respondent will receive an initial questionnaire. A second questionnaire will be mailed to those who have not responded within 3 weeks. Those who do not respond to the second mailing will be contacted by telephone to ask them to complete the questionnaire and return it by mail. The survey instrument will be developed using focus groups to test questions and survey format.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,800.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,267 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and